

Serious Times in Mexico

The situation in Mexico is serious and is described in brief in dispatches to the St. Louis Republic as follows:

Order of intervention must come from congress by decision of President Taft and his cabinet.

Thirty-five thousand men of the army, navy and marine corps are in readiness for movement.

Six dreadnaughts are steaming to the trouble zone, carrying 6,000 jackies and officers.

Ten other fighting ships await orders with 9,000 men. Five other ships are within wireless call to action.

Diaz releases 5,000 prisoners from Belim jail.

One American woman, Mrs. H. W. Holmes, killed by a bullet and Mrs. Percy Griffith mortally wounded. Allie Bland, American, shot through the arm.

Ambassador Wilson with German and Spanish ministers demand battle cease, but Madero refuses.

Battle resumed in early morning rages all day, with hundreds dead.

Cable office hit by shell and British legation is under fire.

Madero's minister of war notifies Diaz unless he abandon use of heavy guns no quarter will be given him or followers if captured.

Arrival of Alfonso Miranda and Geneveve de la O with Zapatista forces to aid Diaz spread terror as looting and brigandage is feared.

Food supplies failing and suffering among poor is apparent.

Hotels where Americans seek refuge directly in line of fire.

Following are Associated Press dispatches: Mexico City, Mexico, Feb. 13.—Mexico City, the capital of the republic, a city of half a million population, the ancient citadel of the Montezumas, tonight is again swept by shot and shell in the most desperate fighting ever witnessed in a great municipality since the French revolution.

Revised estimates are that 1,000 persons were killed and 1,500 wounded in yesterday's battles in the center of the historic city. It is believed that an equal number of dead and wounded fell in the conflict in the streets and from the rooftops today.

Today's battle still is waging at midnight and has been waging, save during the brief armistice, since 7 o'clock this morning.

MEDIATION RATHER THAN INTERVENTION

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—Mediation in Mexico rather than intervention, by the appointment of a pan-American commission was urged today upon President Taft. Senator Cullom of the foreign relations committee and Representative Flood of the foreign relations committee, by John Barrett, director-general of the Pan-American union.

The commission, which it is suggested, should seek to bring about a readjustment of Mexican affairs, would be composed of a statesman from the United States, an eminent Latin-American diplomat now in Washington and an influential Mexican. Mr. Barrett suggested for the commission such men as Senator Root or William J. Bryan, Senor Calderon, minister from Uruguay, and Senor De La Barra of Mexico, former ambassador to the United States.

The mediation proposal was made after conferences with members of the senate and house and following renewed assurances from the state department that there is no present intention of departing from the established policy of dealing with the situation in Mexico.

The commission, he suggests, should investigate the situation in Mexico on the ground and make recommendations to Mexico which shall adjust the situation in favor of permanent peace and stability.

"Above all things," he adds, "it will bring for the moment peace to Mexico, the actual protection of life and property of foreigners, which should in due time develop into permanent peace, stability and prosperity for the Mexican government and people without striking a blow at Mexico's independence and with evidence to all America that the United States seeks no territorial aggrandizement."

Mr. Barrett expresses the opinion that this government would find the Latin-American governments in sympathy with this plan, that the selection of either Senator Root or Mr. Bryan would be satisfactory in Mexico and other Latin-American countries as well as in the United

States, and the other possible members he named would be agreeable to all concerned.

Later Mr. Barrett issued the following statement: "Without the slightest intimation, direct or indirect, from the president or the secretary of state that they were displeased, as reported in the newspapers, with my suggestion of the appointment of a pan-American commission to adjust the Mexican situation, I have, of my own free will and cheerfully, expressed to them my regret that I had unintentionally violated the conventions of diplomacy in not previously submitting to them my plan before it was made public. The cause in behalf of which I am working—pan-American commerce and comity—is too big and broad to be checked or handicapped by any failure on my part to correct a mistake in procedure resulting from my enthusiasm and devotion to its welfare. I was so anxious to help head off what seemed impending disaster to pan-American accord in Mexico, that I made public my plan without the slightest thought that it would displease the state department or embarrass the American colony in Mexico."

Following are Associated Press dispatches: Mexico City, Feb. 14.—The resignation of Francisco I. Madero from the presidency is believed to be in the hands of the Mexican congress. It was authoritatively stated that Madero agreed to resign if the senate so wished. The senate was called into session at 7:10 o'clock tonight to take action on this important phase of the situation.

At the British legation, where Senor de la Barra took refuge Thursday, it was stated that Madero's resignation practically had been arranged for and that de la Barra probably would succeed him in the presidency.

Later Senor de la Barra, while proceeding through the streets in an automobile, stopped and made a brief address, assuring the crowds that a peace settlement was certain and probably would be reached before morning.

De la Barra had been in consultation with both Madero and Diaz regarding a quick settlement in order to avoid intervention.

At 6 o'clock tonight General Huerta, the federal commander, gave the order to cease firing. Soon detachments of federals were seen marching from their positions to the government base near the palace, their guns slung on their backs.

The laws of Mexico make it necessary for the resignation of the president to be submitted to the congress and for this reason official announcement of the resignation of Madero may be delayed considerably, even if already decided upon.

Mexico City, Feb. 14.—The senate called a session at 7:10 tonight. Senor de la Barra, on his way to the senate, made a brief address, assuring the citizens who crowded around that an early settlement was assured, possibly before morning.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The news of Francisco I. Madero's voluntary relinquishment of the presidency of Mexico brought relief to official circles in Washington, in which the situation in the last few days hourly has been growing more tense. The announcement, coming at the close of a day in which the situation steadily had been turning against President Madero, hardly was surprising. It served instantly to clear the horizon of the storm clouds which came nearer as the prospect of armed interference on the part of the United States seemed inevitable.

Later Madero announced that he would not resign and fighting was resumed.

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, Feb. 17.—Two army transports at Newport News were ordered tonight by the war department to proceed empty to Galveston, Tex., immediately. The order was given, it is understood, so that transports might be ready in case of serious developments to convey troops from the border to Vera Cruz.

Henry Lane Wilson, American ambassador to Mexico, sent to the New York World the following dispatch: The World should know that the specific regulations of the department of state prohibit diplomatic officers from informing newspapers relative to political situations. To relieve general apprehension, however, I may say without transgressing this rule that everything possible is being done to insure the safety of American lives and property in this city, and that as neither the government nor the revolutionary forces seem able to afford protection the foreign elements, and principally Americans, have taken

the matter into their own hands and are now doing active police duty through all the residential districts where foreigners are mostly and where the diplomatic establishments are situated. It is hoped that this force, in the event that no assistance comes from other sources, will be able to protect American lives and property against Zapatistas or the violence of the worst local elements. HENRY LANE WILSON.

MADERO AND DIAZ

While leaving the general Mexican situation as much of a puzzle as ever, the successful mutiny of the troops in Mexico City seems to eliminate Madero as a factor for further consideration. For several months the prestige of Madero had been yielding to realization of the futility of his efforts to reestablish the power of the central government. Even with the federal army loyally obeying his orders, it was foreseen that Madero could not cope with the steadily growing revolutionary disorder. When the majority of the army at the capitol went back on the president his last claim to recognition as the strong man of Mexico vanished. Madero may well follow the example of Diaz and leave the political field free for another experiment.

Francisco Madero served as president of Mexico for about fifteen months. He had been the most conspicuous figure in the revolutionary outbreak preceding the abdication of Diaz not quite two years ago. Madero was elected on the strength of personal popularity rather than any distinct achievements on his own part, either in a military or political way. Although eager to lead his people back into the paths of peace and prosperity, President Madero was unable to make a good start in that direction. Some of the elements that had opposed Diaz continued to oppose Madero, while most of the Diaz supporters were more than willing to see Madero come to grief. Madero, while the role of pretender, had put out many promises that could not be redeemed. He had been in office only a few months before many of the same insurrectos that had operated against the old government were operating against the new. Madero himself had taught the rebel chiefs how to resort to guerrilla tactics which could not be suppressed by the federal troops. Within the last few months the scattered insurrections gained new strength with the realization that the Madero administration was doomed.

The fact that a nephew of former President Porfirio Diaz is hailed as the most promising leader on the revolutionary side suggests a swinging back of the pendulum of popular sentiment. Since the organization of the Mexican republic the only period of orderly development was the long administration of President Diaz. President Diaz was a strong man, and he ruled with a whip. But President Diaz protected property and promoted prosperity at the same time he was insisting upon order. No doubt the long stretch of the Diaz administration looks better in retrospect now than it appeared when the public was clamoring for the ousting of the old dictator because he restricted the popular liberties. No doubt the leadership of another Diaz is now sought in the hope that he may possess some of the qualities that the deposed president possessed. It is probable the business interests of the country have acquiesced in a plan to make General Felix Diaz president.

It may be seriously doubted whether Mexico has the strength to work out her own salvation at this time. Even if there should be an agreement to replace Madero with the young Diaz the ferment probably would continue, as it continued after Madero replaced the elder Diaz. A good deal of the recent revolutionary disturbance was due to desire to pillage, rather than patriotism. It would be just as easy for bandits to operate in the name of patriotism under one administration as under another, and the reforms upon which really patriotic revolutionists are insisting can not be worked out in a few months. So long as the revolutionary habit smolders it will find fuel on which to feed.—Sioux City (Iowa) Journal.

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